

PATENT
450101-02344REMARKS

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this Amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-27, 37-42, 49-57, 64, 66-68, 70-72, 74 and 75 are in the present application. Support for this amendment can be found at pages 28 and 32 and Figures 4 and 5. It is submitted that these claims were patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The changes to the claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. sections 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Claims 1-5, 7, 10, 14, 16, 37-40, 49-54, and 64-74 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,469,216). Claims 19-23, 25, 41-42, 55-57, and 72-75 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi. Claims 6, 8-9, 15, 17-18, 24, and 26-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Kondo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,748,235). The present invention is patentable over these references for at least the following reasons.

The present invention requires a "defect-correcting means for correcting defective pixels in the input image signal" (claims 1, 10, 19, 37, 39, 41, 49, 52, 55, 64, 68, and 72). In

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other words, the present invention corrects defective pixels before further processing of the input image signal. Takahashi does not teach or suggest such a defect-correcting means.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, Takahashi and Kondo fail to meet the limitations of the present invention and the claims should now be allowed.

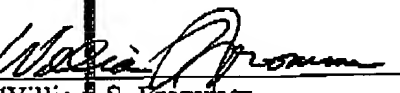
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

No additional fees are deemed to be required for the filing of this amendment, but if such are required, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,

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